

Middle Mountain Q & As

- **Why can't you burn earlier in the spring?**

Conditions in this area are too wet at that time

- **Why can't you burn in July or August?**

It's the height of fire season and we may be fighting wildland fires and conditions are likely to be too volatile

- **Can't you wait another year?**

Prescribed burn projects are weather dependent and we have small windows of opportunities to complete the projects. Middle Mountain has been on the books since 2004. It has taken this long to get the right conditions to conduct the burn.

- **How long will the Middle Mountain prescribed burn last?**

The actual burn will most likely take two days. Fire personnel will patrol and monitor the project area for several days after the burn to ensure there has been no spotting outside the burn perimeter and take care of any hot spots near the fire perimeter.

- **What if I want to hunt in the area of the prescribed burn?**

Hunters are asked to stay out of the project area until the burning is complete – which will most likely be two or three days.

- **Why do you need to do a prescribed burn?**

There are several objectives that will be accomplished with this project: Encouraging regeneration of Aspen stands and overall forest and elk habitat improvement; Breaking up the continuity of the vegetation in order to lessen the chances of a catastrophic, crown fire – such a fire could burn all the lodgepole pine and other vegetation with one fire; By reducing the fuel load and providing openings it gives fire fighters some defensible space to work from if they need to fight a wildland fire. It's to our advantage that we determine the time and intensity of a fire that will improve the area rather than a wildland fire that has the potential to do resource damage.

- **Will the burn scare the animals out of the area?**

No, the game will move out of the immediate area, but will quickly return when the fire has past and the area has cooled. Game look for newly sprouted shoots and there will be islands of unburned vegetation that will provide forage and cover for them.

- **Will the prescribed burn destroy the hunting unit?**

No, as mentioned above it will improve overall habitat for all the game in the area.

- **How many acres is the burn?**

The Middle Mountain Prescribed burn is 450 acres - unit 201 is 151,035 acres total.